

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a raw mixture for sintering, comprising mixing ore with a fines fraction, at least one addition, and returned sintered material from a subsequent sintering process and optionally with a binder, comprising mixing and granulation of the mixture, and adding some of the returned sintered material before the ~~granulation process~~ mixture enters a granulation drum, and after the ore has been mixed with the at least one addition and optionally with the binder, and further comprising adding some of the returned sintered material alone within a longitudinal extent of [[a]] the granulation drum during the granulation process of the mixture.

wherein the mixing comprises intensive mixing in which the ore, the at least one addition, and the optional binder to be mixed are mixed in a container by means of a mixing tool, and the intensive mixing comprises a relative movement between the container and the mixing tool.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein a location within the longitudinal extent of the granulation drum at which some of the returned sintered material is added can be varied.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising adding a fuel during a stage of the granulation in which unsintered granules which are forming are of a size of up to 8 mm.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Withdrawn) An installation for producing a raw mixture for sintering, wherein the mixture comprises ore with a fines fraction, at least one addition, returned sintered material from a subsequent sintering process and optionally a binder, the installation comprising a mixer for

mixing the ore, the addition and the binder which is optionally added, and downstream of the mixer along a path of the mixture in the installation a pelletizing device for the mixture, wherein the pelletizing device includes a granulating drum, and a delivery device operable to return sintered material to the mixture and the delivery device opens downstream from the mixer.

8. (Withdrawn) The installation according to Claim 7, wherein the delivery device for returned sintered material leads the returned sintered material to a second delivery device and the second delivery device leads the mixture from the mixer to the granulating drum.

9. (Withdrawn) The installation according to Claim 7, wherein the delivery device which is operable to return returned sintered material projects into the granulating drum to return the sintered material into the granulating drum.

10. (Withdrawn) The installation according to Claim 9, wherein the granulating drum extends over a longitudinal extent, and the delivery device has a sintered material discharge location for discharging the returned sintered material and the sintered material discharge location is variable within the longitudinal extent of a granulating drum.

11. (Withdrawn) The installation according to claim 7, wherein the delivery device is operable to cause a delivery rate for the returned sintered material which is variable.

12. (Withdrawn) The installation according to claim 7, wherein the mixer is an intensive mixer; the mixer includes a container and a mixer tool that projects into the container, and the container and the mixer tool are moveable relatively.

13. (Withdrawn) The installation according to Claim 12, wherein the mixer comprises a horizontal or vertical shaft mixer with blades or paddles arranged on at least one shaft.

14. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 10, further comprising an addition device for adding fuel, the addition device being located within the granulating drum,

the addition device having an addition device discharge location provided downstream of the sintered material discharge location for discharging the returned sintered material, as seen in a direction in which the raw mixture for sintering is conveyed.

15. (Withdrawn) The installation according to claim 7, wherein the mixer is formed integrally with the granulating drum.

16. (Withdrawn) The installation according to claim 7, wherein the installation has a capacity of more than 450 t/h of raw mixture for sintering.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a raw mixture for sintering, comprising mixing ore with a fines fraction, at least one addition, and optionally with a binder, and granulation of the mixture, and adding returned sintered material from a subsequent sintering process after the ore has been mixed with the at least one addition and optionally with the binder, all of the returned sintered material being added alone within a longitudinal extent of a granulation drum during the granulation process of the mixture,

wherein the mixing comprises intensive mixing in which the ore, the at least one addition, and the optional binder to be mixed are mixed in a container by means of a mixing tool, and the intensive mixing comprises a relative movement between the container and the mixing tool.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 17, wherein a location within the longitudinal extent of the granulation drum at which all of the returned sintered material is added can be varied.

19. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 17, further comprising adding a fuel during a stage of the granulation in which unsintered granules which are forming are of a size of up to 8 mm.

20. (New) A process for producing a raw mixture for sintering, comprising mixing ore with a fines fraction, at least one addition, and returned sintered material from a subsequent

sintering process and optionally with a binder, comprising mixing and granulation of the mixture, and adding some of the returned sintered material before the mixture enters a granulation drum, and after the ore has been mixed with the at least one addition and optionally with the binder, and further comprising adding some of the returned sintered material alone within a longitudinal extent of the granulation drum during the granulation of the mixture and before completion of granules of the mixture, completion of the granules of the mixture occurring upon sheathing of the granules with a fuel during the granulation of the mixture,

wherein the mixing comprises intensive mixing in which the ore, the at least one addition, and the optional binder to be mixed are mixed in a container by means of a mixing tool, and the intensive mixing comprises a relative movement between the container and the mixing tool.

21. (New) A process for producing a raw mixture for sintering, comprising mixing ore with a fines fraction, at least one addition, and optionally with a binder, and granulation of the mixture, and adding returned sintered material from a subsequent sintering process after the ore has been mixed with the at least one addition and optionally with the binder, all of the returned sintered material being added alone within a longitudinal extent of a granulation drum during the granulation of the mixture and before completion of granules of the mixture, completion of the granules of the mixture occurring upon sheathing of the granules with a fuel during the granulation of the mixture,

wherein the mixing comprises intensive mixing in which the ore, the at least one addition, and the optional binder to be mixed are mixed in a container by means of a mixing tool, and the intensive mixing comprises a relative movement between the container and the mixing tool.